

Vietnam Orientation

This orientation, which lasts one full week, serves the operational and personal needs of all Agency personnel preparing for departure on assignments to South Vietnam.

The program aims, first of all to acquaint these persons with the mission, programs, and problems of the Agency in South Vietnam so that they might better plan, support and/or conduct operations in that strategic area. Emphasis is placed on the Agency's clandestine and covert efforts to eradicate Viet Cong influence and to defeat Communist political strategy in Vietnam. Hence while the orientation serves all persons going to Saigon, it is particularly slanted to meet the needs of senior and middle grade CS officers.

Second, the program explains the setting for Agency operations by describing, on the one hand, the historical, geographical, social and cultural background of contemporary Vietnamese politics, Communist insurgency, and Allied counter-insurgency, and, on the other hand, by tracing and delineating the over-all involvement and commitment of the United States Government in Vietnam and Southeast Asia.

Third, the orientation provides as much guidance as possible in both the settlement of those personal matters that must be disposed of before departure and in the anticipation of those that will be encountered on arrival in Saigon. Hence, considerable time is devoted to such matters as re-location of dependents, annual and home leave, insurance and wills, and pay arrangements.

Lectures constitute the chief medium of instruction, and those lecturing are almost invariably Agency personnel who have served in Saigon or are closely involved in Washington with Vietnamese affairs. Numerous films, also some color slides, are shown. Much stress is placed upon the usefulness of extensive reading, and much literature is made available to all students. Finally, all students are given, within the compass of a week, every opportunity to discuss with knowledgeable people any aspect of their assignment that concerns them.

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11/28/66

RECORD Sent this syllabus  
to [redacted] in response for  
MEMORANDUM FOR: request for same so that  
station might plan more ef-  
fectively its own "Vietnam Orientation Course"  
given at [redacted]. Also sent schedule. Given  
to [redacted] who in turn gave it to [redacted]

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I requested Saigon to send their syllabus  
and schedule inasmuch it news to me that a formal  
orientation was being given there.

(DATE)

FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101  
1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED.

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